

2 August 1960

Information concerning the Geographic Research Area, CRA, which may be pertinent to the developing of a training film on the DD/I.

The Geographic Research Area (CRA) is composed of three distinct but closely related units: Geography, Cartography, and Map Library. The Geography Division (D/GG) produces geographic intelligence on a world-wide basis in support of both DD/I and DD/P functions. The Cartography Division (D/GC) provides cartographic support to all components of the Agency (and the Department of State) by producing special subject (intelligence) maps and charts on a great variety of subjects and on a world-wide basis. The Map Library Division (D/GL) provides both a map collection and reference facility for the Agency and the Department of State. It houses the largest single special subject map collection in the United States, and probably the world. Special efforts are constantly made to procure basic maps from all foreign countries, particularly from the Sino-Soviet Bloc.

The CRA contribution to a National Intelligence Estimate on "Africana" might be as follows: After the "terms of reference" as issued by ONE had been digested and a decision made that D/GC properly could make a contribution, Geographers in that division would prepare a paper(s) highlighting the geographic factors as related to the Estimate. In preparing this contribution, D/GC personnel would, as a matter of routine, lean heavily on the map reference service of D/GL for source materials. Numerous pertinent documents, reference volumes, and (most important) branch files would also be employed in preparing the contribution. The map reference service (D/GL) would also perform the function of providing on loan all necessary map materials from other map library facilities in and around the Washington area. The graphic support as provided by D/GC is normally requested by analysts in ONE. Specially oriented intelligence maps that highlight the conclusion of the Estimate or supplement the substantive data supporting the thesis are prepared by D/GC under relatively short deadlines. Graphics for NIE's, like other contributions, must meet very high standards of quality and promptness of production schedule.

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